

What is claimed is:

1. An image processing apparatus including:  
an input device for acquiring image data;  
an image data processor for applying predetermined  
5 processing to the image data acquired by the input device;  
a compressor for compressing the image data  
processed by the image data processor;  
a storage medium for storing the image data  
compressed by the compressor; and

10 a controller for controlling the image data  
processor and the compressor so as to change processing in  
the image data processor and perform data processing and  
data compression, in a case where the image data acquired  
by the input device cannot be stored in the storage medium.

15 2. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein processing performed by the image data processor  
is density conversion processing.

20 3. An image processing apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein the controller controls the image data processor  
such that degree of image density variation becomes less  
than before the image data processor changes processing  
manners.

25 4. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the controller predicts compression rate required

for storing entire image data in the storage medium in a case where the image data acquired by the input device cannot be stored out in the storage medium.

5 5. An image processing apparatus according to claim 4,  
wherein the controller predicts compression rate required  
for storing entire image data in the storage medium based  
on volume of image data already stored in the storage medium  
and volume of image data not yet acquired by the input  
10 device.

6. An image processing apparatus according to claim 4,  
wherein the image data processor conducts processing in  
accordance with compression rate predicted by the  
15 controller.

7. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the controller erases image data already stored in  
the storage medium and lets the input device acquire image  
20 data again in a case where image data the input device has  
acquired cannot be stored in the storage medium.

8. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1  
further including an expander for expanding an image data  
25 compressed and stored in the storage medium.

9. An image processing apparatus according to claim 8,

wherein the controller controls the image data processor such as that the expander expands image data stored in the storage medium and the image data processor applies newly changed processing to the expanded image data in a case where  
5 image data acquired by the input device cannot be stored in the storage medium.

10. An image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the input device acquires not-yet-acquired-image  
10 data once unoccupied capacity is secured by the newly changed processing in the storage medium.

11. An image data processing method applied to an image processor comprising:

- 15 a step 1 of acquiring image data;  
a step 2 of applying predetermined data processing to the image data acquired at the step 1;  
a step 3 of compressing the image data to which the processing is applied at the step 2;  
20 a step 4 of storing the image data compressed at the step 3 in a predetermined storage medium; and  
a step 5 of changing the processing content of the data processing at the step 2 in a case where the image data cannot be stored in the storage medium at the step 4.

25 12. An image data processing method according to claim 11, wherein data processing in the step 2 is density

conversion processing for image data.

13. An image data processing method according to claim  
12, wherein characteristics of density conversion  
5 processing is changed in the step 5 such that degree of image  
density variation becomes less than before data processing  
manners are changed in the step 2.